

REBUILDING THE METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE

THE meeting of male members of the Tabernacle church, called in accordance with the Trust Deed, will take place just after the publication of the present magazine, so that we must wait another month before we can communicate to our readers anything of public importance that may be decided at that gathering. The list of receipts to May 15, printed in this issue of the *Sword and Trowel*, shows how far the Rebuilding Fund had progressed up to that time.

It is not possible yet to say how much will be required, but it is quite certain that no more is likely to be sent than will be absolutely needed. It is, perhaps, again necessary to say that all contributions should be addressed to Pastor Thomas Spurgeon, Pastors' College, Temple Street, Southwark, London, S.E. Collecting cards and boxes can also be supplied to duly authorized persons, on application to the Secretary at the same address.

On *Monday evening, May 9*, a meeting of the Tabernacle church and congregation was held in conjunction with the usual prayer meeting at Upton Chapel, Lambeth, which was densely crowded. Most of the time was devoted to prayer and praise, but a few sentences of loving fraternal sympathy were spoken by Pastor W. Williams, and a brief address was given by Pastor Thomas Spurgeon, who presided.

He began by announcing the good news that the £20,000 for the insurance on the Tabernacle was to be paid in a few days. (The £2,000 for the contents might be somewhat longer delayed). For this wise provision on the part of those who insured the Tabernacle for so large an amount, and for the prompt and sympathetic settlement by the companies concerned (the Westminster and Hand-in-Hand), the Pastor expressed grateful thanksgiving.

He also referred to the continued stream of resolutions and letters—many of which were, he believed, the precursors and heralds of substantial help—but others had contained what someone described as “condensed sympathy,” and for these he was naturally doubly thankful. The amounts so far received had been, for the most part, singularly small, he did not regret that, so long as there were enough of them to complete the total that would have to be expended.

Though the actual figures could not be stated, it must be clearly recognized that the rebuilding and restoration of the Tabernacle would be a very costly affair, and that they would all have to deny themselves on every hand, for Christ's sake and the Gospel's, and for the sake of him who so long led them in the fight, and who has gone to his reward.

There have been some grand MEMORIALS OF C. H. SPURGEON—both buildings and institutions—erected or continued since his home going, but without disparaging any one of these, it can be claimed that the new Metropolitan Tabernacle must be, in a very special sense, a memorial of him for whose wonderful ministry the first Tabernacle was built, and by whose almost superhuman efforts it was opened free of debt.

“By the way,” added the Pastor, “let it be said at once, if it has not been said before—it really goes without saying—that *the new Tabernacle will be opened free of debt*. You did not need me to tell you that. Why, the old blackened stones would cry out against us if we dreamed of acting in any other fashion. Let us ‘trust, and not be afraid,’ and whether we need £10,000 or £20,000, I do not doubt that it will come in God's good time, for we cannot re-open the Tabernacle until it does come. Let that be signed, and sealed, and settled straight away.”

The Pastor then explained that the Trust Deed—which, singularly enough, contained a clause relating to *the rebuilding of the sanctuary*—provided that, after two Sabbath days' notice, “the men members” of the church should meet, to consider the first steps that needed to be taken, such as the election of a building committee, &c. That meeting would, accordingly, be held in the Memorial Hall of the Stockwell Orphanage on *Friday evening, May 27*. He hoped that on a later occasion, an opportunity might be found for all the members to meet together to hear all that could be told them about the work needing to be done, and the best ways of doing it. In the meantime, all could pray for the guidance

needed in each step to be taken, and for the Lord's blessing to rest upon every effort that should be made.

The Pastor, after giving particulars of the help coming from old and young, Jews and Gentiles, Nonconformists and Churchmen—for all of which he was more grateful than he could express—closed and exceedingly interesting meeting with prayer and the Benediction.

Taken from The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit C. H. Spurgeon Collection. Only necessary changes have been made, such as correcting spelling errors, some punctuation usage, capitalization of deity pronouns, and minimal updating of a few archaic words. The content is unabridged. Additional Bible-based resources are available at www.spurgeongems.org.